

SEMIANNUAL REPORT
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA
INTERJURISDICTIONAL GROUND FISH RESEARCH
JANUARY 1, 2001 – JUNE 30, 2001



Submitted to:

Program Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

Submitted by:

Victoria M. O'Connell
ADF&G Groundfish Project Leader

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries

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A. Project Identifiers

- 1) NOAA Award NA06FI0074
- 2) Grantee: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- 3) Principal Investigator: Victoria M. O'Connell
- 4) Project Title: Southeastern Alaska Interjurisdictional Groundfish Research
- 5) Funding: Federal: \$151,176 Match: \$50,392
- 6) Award Period: July 2000 – June 2001
- 7) Period Covered by this Report: January 1, 2001 – June 30, 2001

B. Project Summary

This project is the core portion of the Southeast Region Groundfish Project and is critical for successful research and management of groundfish fisheries. The purpose of this contract is to improve groundfish management through improving on-going fisheries monitoring programs. Funding of this project allows in-season management of interjurisdictional and state managed fisheries in Southeastern Alaska. The project involved research, monitoring, and management of commercial groundfish fisheries in the Southeast region of the State of Alaska from July 2000 through June 2001.

Project Management:

Victoria M. O'Connell, Project Leader, is responsible for the overall supervision of the project and is manager of the budget. She is directly responsible for regulation development and in-season management of state-managed groundfish fisheries in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska.

Margaret Cartwright, Fisheries Biologist, is responsible for organization and implementation of sablefish resources assessment surveys and is also responsible for oversight, data analysis, and reporting requirements of the commercial catch monitoring program.

C. Summary of Progress and Results

- 1) The objectives of the project include:
 - a) Determine domestic groundfish landings in state-managed fisheries in the eastern Gulf of Alaska by species, management area, month, and gear type.
 - b) Collect biological data on key species including length, weight, sex, maturity, and body parts or tissues as needed for age determination and genetics work.
 - c) Continue the longline, dinglebar troll, and trawl logbook programs and update and improve methods of data entry and analysis.

- d) Conduct resource assessment surveys of sablefish, rockfish, and lingcod in the southeast and East Yakutat area as funding allows.
- e) Implement closures for fisheries in state waters and for state-managed fisheries in federal waters as needed for resource conservation or when annual harvest objectives have been reached.

2) Description of work performed:

- a) Determined domestic groundfish landings in the state-managed fisheries in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska by species, management area, month, and gear type.
- b) Oversaw collection of biological data on key species. Data included length, weight, sex, maturity, and body parts or tissues as needed for age determination and genetics work.
- c) Implemented closures of fisheries in state waters and for state-managed fisheries in federal waters as needed for resource conservation or when annual harvest objectives were reached.
- d) Continued the longline, dinglebar troll, and trawl logbook programs and updated and improved methods of data entry and analysis.
- e) Prepared for and conducted 2001 sablefish stock assessment survey and tag recovery operations which included a pot gear survey to capture sablefish for tagging.
- f) Finalized documentation of port sampling goals and objectives by species and fishery.
- g) Began analysis of 2000 sablefish stock assessment information including summarization of 2000 tagging and recovery data and statistical summarization of 2000 fishery data.
- h) Entered port sample, logbook, tag return, and survey data into computer databases.
- i) Completed semi-annual reports for supplemental contracts and preparation of grant proposals to fund DSR, black rockfish, and lingcod assessment projects.
- j) Provided groundfish information to the public and agencies as requested, including public presentation of information at meetings and symposia.
- k) Prepared for and conducted the 2001 Lingcod survey (in conjunction with NA96FN0195).
- l) Conducted administrative duties as necessary.

During the contract period approximately 2,276 mt, round weight, of groundfish were landed in state-managed fisheries in Southeastern Alaska. Primary fisheries include the sablefish fisheries in the Northern Southeast Inside subdistrict and the southern Southeast Inside subdistrict (1,548 mt combined), Demersal Shelf Rockfish 236 mt, Pacific cod (147 mt), other rockfish (250 mt), and lingcod (87 mt).

- 3) There were no changes to the goals/objectives of the program.
- 4) Publications and Presentations

O'Connell V., Ruccio M., Urban D., Trowbridge C., Brookover T., Cartwright M., Brylinsky C., Meyer S., Munk K., Jaenicke M., Piorkowski B., Seeb L., Haverland

T., Bechtol, B., and Gish, R. 2001. State of Alaska groundfish fisheries and associated investigations in 2000. Prepared for the Forty-Second Annual Meeting of the Technical Sub-committee of the Canada-United States Groundfish Committee. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland, OR.

D. Problems

No significant problems occurred during the reporting period. Meg Cartwright, the Fishery Biologist II, left to take a project leader position in Juneau in April, 2001. This position is currently being advertised to be refilled.

Table 1. Groundfish landings (round mt) in state-managed groundfish fisheries, Southeast Alaska, by management area, January 1, 2001 – June 30, 2001.

Species group	CSEO ¹	EYKT	NSEI	NSEO	SSEI	SSEO	IBS	Total
Black rockfish	0.12	0.06	0.09	2.07	0.12	0	0	2.45
DSR	25.20	18.95	6.84	12.36	9.79	6.07	0	79.21
Flatfish	na	na	0.32	na	0.01	na	na	0.34
Lingcod	10.59	52.93	3.41	7.52	1.68	2.38	2.90	81.40
Pacific cod	na	na	43.84	na	1.31	na	na	45.15
Sablefish	na	na	0	na	184.14	na	na	184.14
Other rockfish	na	na	31.02	na	29.79	na	na	60.85
Pelagic rockfish	na	na	0.66	na	0.08	na	na	0.74
total	35.91	71.94	93.66	22.07	233.97	8.45	2.90	468.91

¹Management area names are:

CSEO — Central Southeast Outside
 EYKT — East Yakutat
 IBS — Icy Bay Subdistrict
 NSEI — Northern Southeast Inside

NSEO — Northern Southeast Outside
 SSEI — Southern Southeast Inside
 SSEO — Southern Southeast Outside

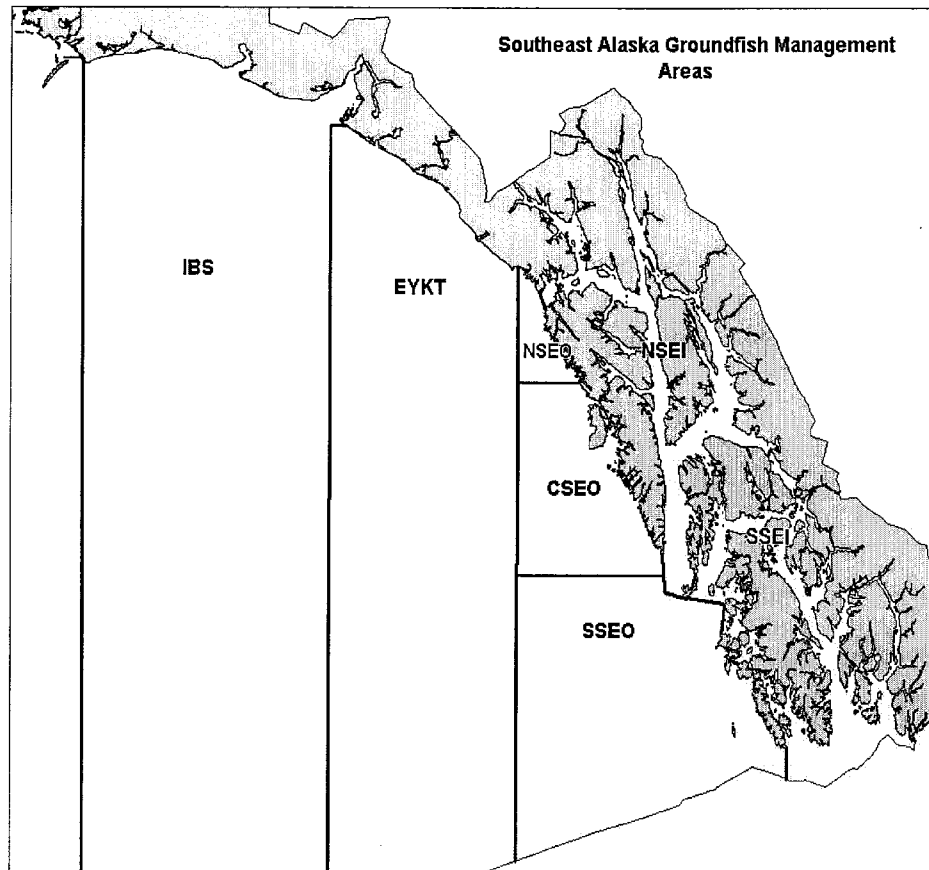


Figure 1. Map showing Southeast Alaska groundfish areas. Management area names are given in the footnote to Table 1.

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